

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn): A method of promoting hair thickness in a subject, comprising:  
identifying a subject in need of promoting hair thickness; and  
increasing the level of a VEGF protein in the subject,  
thereby promoting hair thickness in a subject.
2. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the level of VEGF protein is increased  
by administering to the subject a VEGF polypeptide or a functional fragment or analog thereof.
3. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the level of VEGF protein is increased  
by administering to the subject a compound which induces VEGF.
4. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 3, wherein the compound is a polypeptide which  
increases VEGF expression.
5. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 3, wherein the compound is a transition metal.
6. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 3, wherein the compound is administered  
topically.

7. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the level of VEGF protein is increased by administering to the subject a nucleotide sequence encoding a VEGF polypeptide or functional fragment or analog thereof.

8. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 7, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding a VEGF polypeptide or functional fragment or analog thereof is administered to a keratinocyte.

9. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 7, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding a VEGF polypeptide or functional fragment or analog thereof is administered to a cell obtained from the subject.

10. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 9, wherein the cell is a keratinocyte.

11. (Withdrawn): A method of promoting hair growth in a subject, comprising:  
identifying a subject in need of promoting hair growth; and  
increasing the level of a VEGF protein in the subject,  
thereby promoting hair growth in a subject.

12. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 11, wherein the level of VEGF protein is increased by administering to the subject a VEGF polypeptide or a functional fragment or analog thereof.

13. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 11, wherein the level of VEGF protein is increased by administering to the subject a compound which induces VEGF.

14. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein the compound is a polypeptide which increases VEGF expression.

15. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein the compound is a transition metal.

16. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein the compound is administered topically.

17. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 11, wherein the level of VEGF protein is increased by administering to the subject a nucleotide sequence encoding a VEGF polypeptide or functional fragment or analog thereof.

18. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 17, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding a VEGF polypeptide or functional fragment or analog thereof is administered to a keratinocyte.

19. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 17, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding a VEGF polypeptide or functional fragment or analog thereof is administered to a cell obtained from the subject.

20. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 19, wherein the cell is a keratinocyte.

21. (Withdrawn): A method of inhibiting hair growth or hair thickness in a subject, comprising:

identifying a subject in need of inhibiting hair growth or thickness; and  
decreasing VEGF activity in the subject,  
thereby inhibiting hair growth or thickness in a subject.

22. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein VEGF activity is decreased by administering to the subject a compound which inhibits VEGF.

23. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 22, wherein the compound is a polypeptide.

24. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 22, wherein the compound is a nucleotide sequence which causes a decrease in VEGF expression.

25. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 22, wherein the compound is administered topically.

26. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 22, wherein the compound is an anti-VEGF antibody.

27. (Withdrawn): A method of evaluating whether a subject is at risk for hair loss, comprising:

providing a cell or tissue sample from the subject; and  
detecting a misexpression in a VEGF gene of the subject, wherein decreased expression of VEGF in the subject compared to a control is indicative of a risk of hair loss in the subject.

28. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 27, wherein the cell is follicular keratinocyte.

29. (Currently amended): A method of selecting a compound that modulates hair growth or hair thickness, comprising:

providing a test compound; ~~and~~  
providing a follicular keratinocyte;  
treating the keratinocyte with the test compound; and  
evaluating the ability of the test compound to modulate VEGF ~~activity~~ in the  
keratinocyte, wherein if the compound modulates VEGF activity compared to a control, it is  
selected, thereby selecting a compound that modulates hair growth or hair thickness.

30-31. (Canceled).

32. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the test compound is a polypeptide.

33. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the test compound is a fragment of VEGF.

34. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the test compound is an analog of VEGF.

35. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the test compound is a peptide mimetic.
36. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the test compound is a fusion protein.
37. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the test compound is an antibody.
38. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the test compound is an antisense VEGF nucleic acid sequence.
39. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the test compound is a transition metal.
40. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the evaluating step comprises evaluating the level of VEGF protein.
41. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the evaluating step comprises evaluating the level of VEGF RNA.
42. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein a test compound that increases VEGF is selected as a compound that increases hair growth or thickness.
43. (New): The method of claim 29, wherein a test compound that decreases VEGF is selected as a compound that decreases hair growth or thickness.
44. (New): A method of selecting a compound that modulates hair thickness, comprising:
- providing a test compound;
  - providing a follicular keratinocyte;
  - treating the keratinocyte with the test compound; and

evaluating the ability of the test compound to modulate VEGF in the keratinocyte, wherein if the compound modulates VEGF compared to a control, it is selected, thereby selecting a compound that modulates hair thickness.

45. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the test compound is a polypeptide.
46. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the test compound is a fragment of VEGF.
47. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the test compound is an analog of VEGF.
48. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the test compound is a peptide mimetic.
49. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the test compound is a fusion protein.
50. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the test compound is an antibody.
51. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the test compound is an antisense VEGF nucleic acid sequence.
52. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the test compound is a transition metal.
53. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the evaluating step comprises evaluating the level of VEGF protein.
54. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the evaluating step comprises evaluating the level of VEGF RNA.
55. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein a test compound that increases VEGF is selected as a compound that increases hair thickness.

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56. (New): The method of claim 44, wherein a test compound that decreases VEGF is selected as a compound that decreases hair thickness.